



Celebrating the music of

WILLIE NELSON

20

15

November 18



CONGRATULATIONS,
WILLIE NELSON



@librarycongress #GershwinPrize

FUN FACT: SONGS RECORDED ABOUT WILLIE NELSON

“A BACKSTAGE PASS
(TO THE WILLIE NELSON SHOW)”

by Johnny Cash

“WILLIE WON'T YOU SING
A SONG WITH ME?”

by George Burns

“WHAT WOULD WILLIE DO?”

by Bruce Robison



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Willie Nelson

MESSAGE FROM THE
ACTING LIBRARIAN
OF CONGRESS



DAVID S. MAO

Thank you for joining me in honoring Willie Nelson, the 2015 recipient of the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song.

In a career that spans six decades, Willie's achievements as a songwriter and performer are legendary. He is a musical explorer who is redrawing the boundaries of country music, crossing into jazz, blues, folk, rock and Latin styles. Both his musical breadth and the pure sincerity and universal appeal of his lyrics have helped make American country music one of the most popular forms of music around the world.

The Gershwin Prize—named in honor of the great song-writing team George and Ira Gershwin—was established to recognize artists whose creative output transcends musical categories, brings diverse listeners together and fosters mutual understanding across all borders through the language of music. This year's honoree exemplifies these qualities to the fullest measure. He continually surprises and enchants us by mastering a musical style, transforming it into something new, and sharing it with the world in his concerts and recordings.

Thank you for being part of tonight's tribute to one of America's most beloved musical treasures — Willie Nelson.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: Unauthorized use of photographic and sound-recording equipment is strictly prohibited. Before the concert begins, patrons are requested to turn off their cell phones, pagers, alarm watches, or other noise-making devices that could disrupt the performance. Thank you.



Photo Credit: David McClister

“GET IN THERE. SING THE SONG. GET OUT. I’M NOT BIG ON A HUNDRED TAKES AND A THOUSAND OVERDUBS. MY KIND OF SINGING ISN’T MEANT TO BE PERFECT. IT’S MEANT TO REFLECT THE IMPERFECTIONS OF A HUMAN BEING LIKE ME. AFTER A COUPLE OF TAKES, THAT REFLECTION IS PRETTY ACCURATE.” - Willie Nelson, *It’s a Long Story: My Life*



- #21
“BLUE EYES CRYING IN THE RAIN”
NOVEMBER 22, 1975
- #67
“REMEMBER ME”
FEBRUARY 28, 1976
- #84
“GEORGIA ON MY MIND”
JUNE 17, 1978
- #44
“MY HEROES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN COWBOYS”
MARCH 22, 1980
- #20
“ON THE ROAD AGAIN”
NOVEMBER 8, 1980
- #5
“ALWAYS ON MY MIND”
JUNE 12, 1982
- #40
“LET IT BE ME”
SEPTEMBER 18, 1982
- #52
“COWBOYS ARE FREQUENTLY SECRETLY (FOND OF EACH OTHER)”
MARCH 4, 2006

WILLIE NELSON AT A GLANCE



- 5 31 Nominations
1980
ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
- 1983
SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR
“ALWAYS ON MY MIND”
- 1983
ALBUM OF THE YEAR
ALWAYS ON MY MIND
- 1985
SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR
“TO ALL THE GIRLS I’VE LOVED BEFORE”
- 1986
SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR
“HIGHWAYMAN”



- 7 40 Nominations
1975
BEST COUNTRY VOCAL PERFORMANCE, MALE
“BLUE EYES CRYING IN THE RAIN”
- 1978
BEST COUNTRY VOCAL PERFORMANCE, MALE
“GEORGIA ON MY MIND”
- 1978
BEST COUNTRY VOCAL PERFORMANCE BY A DUO OR GROUP
“MAMAS DON’T LET YOUR BABIES GROW UP TO BE COWBOYS”
- 1980
BEST COUNTRY SONG
“ON THE ROAD AGAIN”
- 1982
BEST COUNTRY VOCAL PERFORMANCE, MALE
“ALWAYS ON MY MIND”
- 2002
BEST COUNTRY COLLABORATION WITH VOCALS
“MENDOCINO COUNTY LINE”
- 2007
BEST COUNTRY COLLABORATION WITH VOCALS
“LOST HIGHWAY”

2015 LIBRARY OF CONGRESS GERSHWIN PRIZE FOR POPULAR SONG



Photo Credit: Carol Highsmith

Willie Nelson performing with "The Family"

**IN A CAREER THAT SPANS SIX
DECADES, WILLIE NELSON
HAS EARNED ROYAL STANDING
IN THE PANTHEON OF
AMERICAN MUSIC...**

HE IS, FOR MANY, THE QUINTESSENTIAL TEXAS MUSICIAN. HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO ADAPT AND EXPAND THE MYRIAD MUSICAL STYLES OF HIS HOME STATE INTO A DEEPLY PERSONAL LANGUAGE WITH UNIVERSAL APPEAL.

In more than 200 recordings and countless performances across the globe, he has put his imprint forever on country music, introducing it to new audiences and crossing into traditional pop, Western swing, jazz, reggae, gospel, rock & roll, folk and blues. Nelson has acted in more than 30 films, co-authored several books including the recently released autobiography *It's a Long Story: My Life*, and has been an activist for numerous social causes, most notably the annual Farm Aid concerts he established in 1985 to benefit family farmers.

In the 1960s, Nelson gained recognition as a Nashville songwriter. Faron Young took Nelson's "Hello Walls" to No. 1 for nine weeks. Billy Walker made "Funny How Time Slips Away" into a Top 40 country success. And Patsy Cline made "Crazy" into a Top Ten pop crossover hit. After a devastating house fire in 1972, during which Nelson famously ran inside to save his precious guitar "Trigger," he moved back to his home state to take up residence in the flourishing musical culture of Austin, Texas.



Nelson was encouraged by his friend Waylon Jennings to leave behind the conservative Nashville musical establishment and follow his own path. This led him away from the slick record production associated with country music of the time and toward a style that simultaneously hearkened back to the honky-tonk roots of country and incorporated elements of folk and rock music to produce "outlaw" country. Despite warnings from Nashville that this new style was commercially nonviable, Nelson signed to Atlantic Records as the label's first country artist, and gained his first critical success as a solo artist with the landmark albums *Shotgun Willie* and *Phases and Stages*. This allowed Nelson to move to Columbia Records, where he was able to negotiate a contract for complete creative control over his music. His first album for the company was an innovative concept album, almost unheard of in country music at the time, titled *Red Headed Stranger*. It was an unmitigated success, and with the single "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain," he became

as recognizable in the pop world as in country circles. Never one to rest on his laurels, Nelson continued to break ground with equally unconventional projects, including



Merle Haggard and Willie Nelson Photo by Danny Clinch



Willie Nelson and Ray Charles Photo courtesy of Willie Nelson

a gospel album, *The Troublemaker*, which had been recorded a few years earlier for RCA records, but not released, and a tribute to country music legend Lefty Frizzell titled *To Lefty from Willie*. In 1978, Nelson again defied the conventional wisdom of the music industry by releasing his critically-acclaimed album *Stardust*. The lush album of jazz standards, produced by R&B legend Booker T. Jones, was another critical and commercial success, earning Nelson a Grammy award and a place on Rolling Stone magazine's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time.

Nelson continued to have hits throughout the early '80s, most notably with the album *Honeysuckle Rose* (2x platinum) in 1980, and with a major cross-over success in a cover of Elvis Presley's "Always on My Mind" in 1982. The single spent two weeks at No. 1 and crossed over to No. 5 on the pop charts, sending the album of the same title to No. 2 on the pop charts as well as 4x platinum status. During this period, Nelson also continued his busy touring schedule, earning him the place as highest grossing concert act of 1984. Known for his frequent collaborations, Nelson had many hit duet albums during this period, including *Pancho and Lefty* with Merle Haggard, *WWII* and *Take it to the Limit* with Waylon Jennings, and the crossover single,

"To All the Girls I've Loved Before," with Latin pop star Julio Iglesias. In 1985, "Highwayman" went to No. 1 one as the first single by The Highwaymen, the country supergroup Nelson formed with Jennings, Johnny Cash and Kris Kristofferson. Between 1985 and 1995, these four artists recorded three major label albums as The Highwaymen: *Highwayman* and *Highwayman 2* on Columbia Records and *The Road Goes on Forever* with Liberty Records.

Throughout the 1990s, Nelson continued to work relentlessly, releasing at least one album per year. In 1993, he recorded the acclaimed *Across the Borderline* with producer Don Was and mixer Bob Clearmountain featuring duets with Bonnie Raitt, Sinéad O'Connor and Bob Dylan, on tunes by Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, Peter Gabriel, John Hiatt and Lyle Lovett. Nelson followed with *Moonlight Becomes You*, a *Stardust*-style album of classic pop standards, including the title song made famous in 1942 by Bing Crosby in the film *Road to Morocco*. In 1996, Nelson became the first country performer to sign with Island Records, and released the self-penned, self-produced *Spirit*; he followed that with the critically acclaimed *Teatro*, a collaboration with producer Daniel Lanois. Fearless as always, Nelson then

released a jazzy collection of instrumentals on 1999's *Night and Day*.

Nelson began the new millennium with *Tales Out of Luck: Me and the Drummer*, a collection that came with an interactive scrapbook, and *Milk Cow Blues*, a set of duets with blues legends such as B.B. King and Dr. John. *The Rainbow Connection*, which featured an eclectic selection of old-time country favorites, appeared in spring 2001, and *The Great Divide* came out on Universal in 2002. A collection of his early-'60s publishing demos for Pamper Music called *Crazy: The Demo Sessions* came out on Sugar Hill in 2003. Later in 2003 he released *Run That by Me One More Time*, which reunited him with Ray Price and launched a relationship with Lost Highway

Records. *It Always Will Be* and *Outlaws and Angels* both appeared on Lost Highway in 2004, followed in 2005 by the release of Nelson's long-delayed attempt at a country-reggae fusion, *Countryman*, also on Lost Highway. Nelson's *You Don't Know Me: The Songs of Cindy Walker* arrived the following year, along with *Songbird*, his collaboration with alt-country singer/songwriter Ryan Adams and his band The Cardinals. In 2007, Nelson joined forces with country greats Merle Haggard, Ray Price, and Asleep at the Wheel on the double-disc *Last of the Breed*, followed in 2008 by the Kenny Chesney/Buddy Cannon-produced *Moment of Forever*.

Wide-ranging as always, Nelson paired with jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis in 2008 for the live

album *Two Men with the Blues*, which topped the jazz chart and reached No. 20 on the pop chart. *Lost Highway*, an album of duets with country and pop artists from Shania Twain to Elvis Costello, was released in 2009. Nelson reunited with Marsalis again for 2011's *Here We Go Again: Celebrating the Genius of Ray Charles*, recorded live on February 9 and 10, 2009 at the Rose Theater with Norah Jones. Nelson signed with Sony Legacy and released *Heroes* in the summer of 2012, featuring guest appearances by his sons Lukas and Micah, Ray Price, Merle Haggard, Snoop Dogg, Kris Kristofferson, Jamey Johnson, Billy Joe Shaver and Sheryl Crow. In the spring of 2013 he released a collection of standards called *Let's Face the Music and Dance*, and in the fall, *To All the Girls...*, which features 18 duets with music's top female singers, including, Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn, Rosanne Cash, Sheryl Crow, Mavis Staples, Norah Jones, Emmylou Harris, Carrie Underwood and Miranda Lambert.

Though he had been recording mostly covers for well over a decade, Nelson re-engaged as a songwriter with *Band of Brothers*, issued in June of 2014, which features nine originals co-written with producer Buddy Cannon among its 14 new songs. Six months later, he launched a projected series of albums with the collective name *Willie's Stash*, devoted to music especially close to his heart. *December Day*, the first album in the series, is a low-key collaboration with his sister

Bobbie Nelson, in which they perform a set of old standards and lesser-known tunes from Nelson's songbook. In June 2015, he released a new collaboration with Merle Haggard, *Django and Jimmie*, which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Country Album chart and in the Top 10 (No. 7) on the Billboard 200 Bestselling Albums chart.

Nelson is an American icon. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1993, and he received the Kennedy Center Honors in 1998. He was included by *Rolling Stone* in both its rankings of 100 *Greatest Singers* and 100 *Greatest Guitarists*. In 2010, Nelson's album *Red Headed Stranger* (1975) was added to the Library of Congress National Recording Registry of "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" recordings that are at least 10 years old. In 2012, he was the first recipient of the Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award established by the Country Music Association. 2015 marked the 30th anniversary of his Farm Aid charity concert, which continues to provide assistance to family farms across the United States. Nelson keeps to a rigorous touring schedule despite the fact that he turned 80 in 2013. His touring and recording group, The Family, travels across North America in the biodiesel bus Honeysuckle Rose, which is fueled by BioWillie.

THE FAMILY

"IT'S AMAZING HOW THIS BAND HAS STAYED TOGETHER FOR SO LONG. WHAT MAKES IT AMAZING IS WILLIE. HE'S THE GLUE. WE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN DISGUSTED WITH EACH OTHER AND LEFT, BUT WE WOULDN'T LEAVE HIM. AND HE'D NEVER LEAVE US." — Paul English

Willie Nelson has been performing with "The Family" band since 1973. The band includes one member of his actual family—his older sister Bobbie—as well as two from his previous touring band, The Record Men, and additional session players from the Austin music scene. The best-known lineup of The Family featured Paul English (immortalized in Willie's song "Me and Paul") on drums, Bobbie Nelson on piano, Mickey Raphael on harmonica, Jody Payne on guitar, and Bee Spears on bass.

Paul English originally met Willie Nelson in Fort Worth, Texas in 1955, when Nelson was host of the Western Express radio show on radio station KCNC. English's brother Oliver was the program's regular steel guitar player. On that particular day, the drummer didn't show up, so Nelson suggested that English fill in for him. English knew how to play trumpet, but had never drummed before. "They told me to just keep patting my foot. They kind of counted out every song for me, just one, two, three, and four." The last-minute substitution lasted for three weeks, and by then Willie was so impressed

with English that he asked him to come along to his next paying gig at a local honky-tonk. Several years later, Nelson asked English to join his permanent touring band, The Record Men.

Bobbie Nelson began playing piano and singing at age 5, encouraged by her grandmother. By the time she was 14, she and her brother Willie were both performing in church and with evangelists all over Texas. She married at 16, and performed with her husband's band for several years until their divorce, after which she worked for the Hammond Organ Company demonstrating and selling organs. In 1965, she moved to Nashville to join her brother, and performed in various venues there until joining The Family in 1973.

Mickey Raphael met Willie Nelson at a 1973 post-game jam session organized by former University of Texas football coach Darrell Royal. Raphael's background was in blues and folk music rather than country, but Willie was impressed by his sound and asked him to accompany the band to a series of shows at Max's Kansas City in New York. After their return from New York, Raphael moved to Austin and became a permanent part of The Family.

The Family toured together unchanged from 1973 until 2010, when English suffered a stroke on tour and his brother Billy joined the band as an additional drummer. Bee Spears passed away in 2011, and Kevin Smith (who had previously played bass on one of Willie's studio albums) joined the band as bassist. Jody Payne passed away in 2013.

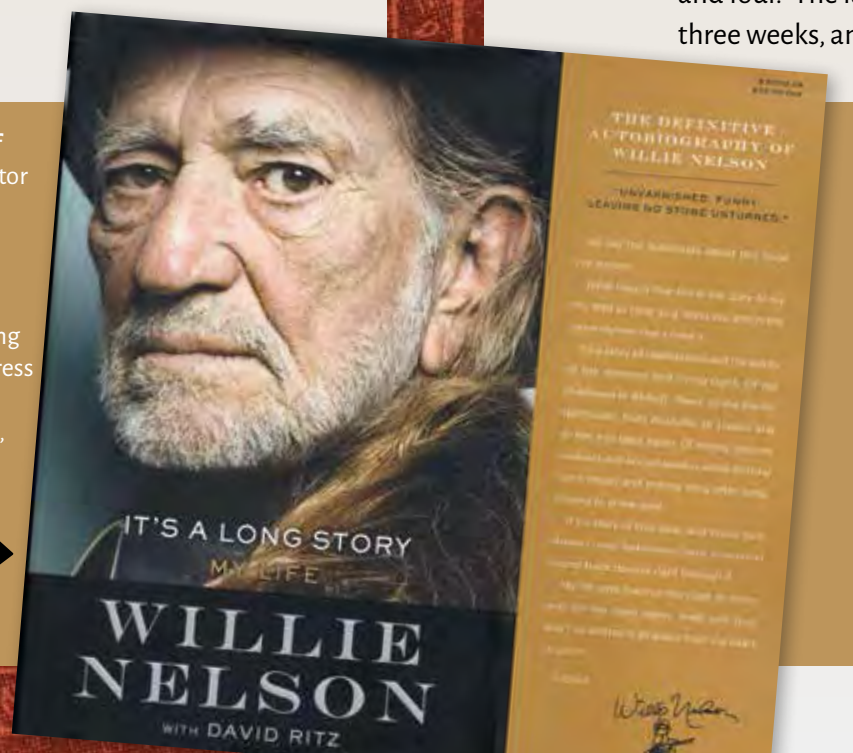


◀ **The 30th anniversary of Farm Aid.** (L-R) Moderator Monica Eng from WBEZ Chicago, Carolyn Mugar, Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp, Dave Matthews and Neil Young speak at the Farm Aid press conference in Chicago, Illinois on September 19, 2015.

Photo Credit: Ebet Roberts

Willie's autobiography ▶ released in May 2015.

Photo Credit for jacket cover: PLATON/Trunk Archive



(L-R): Paul English, the late Bee Spears, Mickey Raphael and Willie Nelson Photo Credit: Courtesy of Willie Nelson



Willie with sister Bobbie Photo Credit: Courtesy of Willie Nelson

IN THE STUDIO Photos featured on this spread are by David McClister



“TRIGGER’LL OUTLAST ME, I THINK. WE’RE BOTH PRETTY OLD, GOT A FEW SCARS HERE AND THERE, BUT WE STILL MANAGE TO MAKE A SOUND EVERY NOW AND THEN.”

One night in 1969, the course of Willie Nelson's career changed when a drunken audience member stepped on and broke his Skil acoustic guitar at a Texas show. The Skil couldn't be fixed, but Nashville guitar shop owner Shot Jackson happened to have a Martin N-20 classical in stock that he recommended as a replacement. So the most famous guitar in country music was acquired, sight unseen, on the basis of a phone call.

From the beginning, Willie knew he had something special. “I'd been playing the Skil, and it had a tone that I kind of liked, but this one had a little more Django in it.” Soon after, on Christmas Eve 1969, he got a phone call that his Nashville home was on fire. Rushing back to the house, he ran inside, and was able to save the guitar before the fire spread.

That fire led Willie to return to Texas, where he was instrumental in forming the outlaw country movement. Trigger was an integral part of his new sound—a fusion of country and rock with some of Django's jazz licks woven into the mix. Trigger's unique tone came to the forefront on the 1975 album *Red Headed Stranger*, where the simple arrangements allowed it to shine.

As the years went by, Willie's playing style caused Trigger to develop the now-famous hole in its wood face. Mark Erlewine, luthier and “Trigger doctor” says, “Very early on, Willie told me ‘just keep it going, and as long as it's going I'll keep going.’”

PLATINUM ALBUMS



1975

Ranked 1st in Billboard Top Country Albums
Ranked 184th in *Rolling Stone's* 500 greatest albums of all time



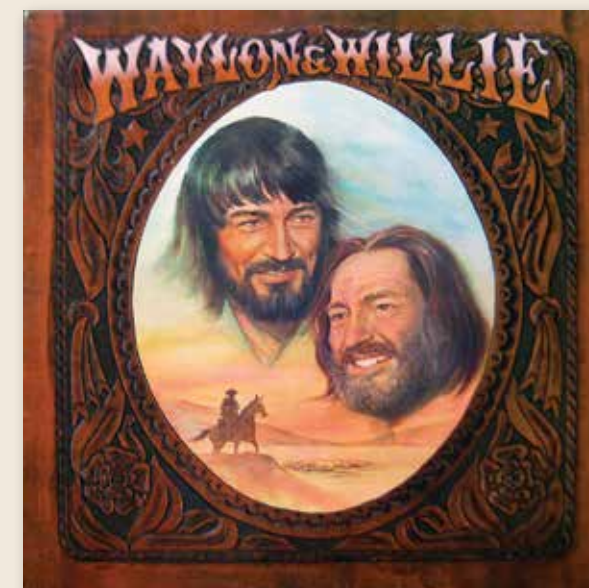
1976

First platinum-certified country album featuring
Waylon Jennings, Jessi Colter and Tompall Glaser



1978

Ranked 257th in *Rolling Stone's* 500 greatest albums of all time



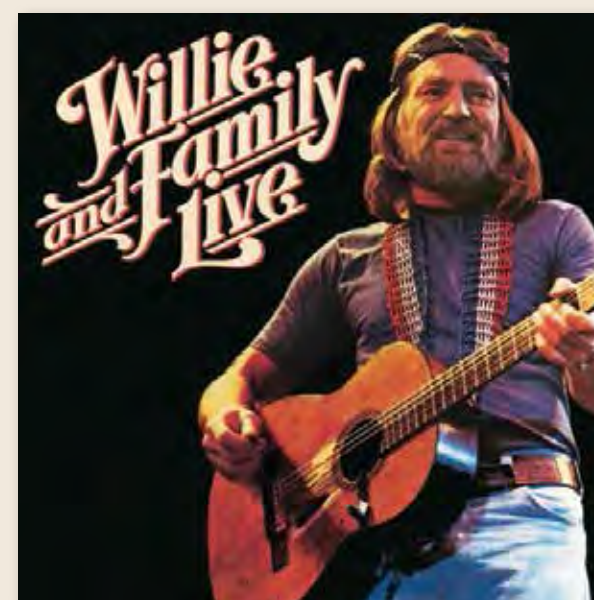
1978



1976

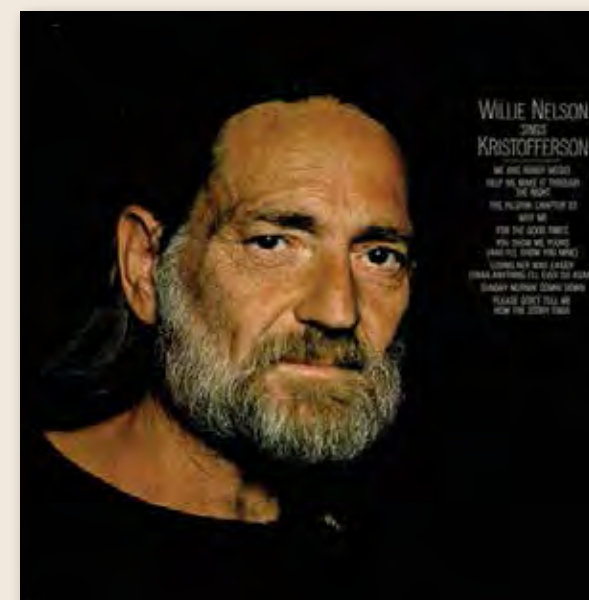


"Funny How Time Slips Away," by Willie Nelson.
Copyright deposit, May 24, 1961. First recorded by
country singer Billy Walker.



1978

Recorded live at Harrah's in Lake Tahoe, Nevada with
Emmylou Harris and Johnny Paycheck



1979

Ranked 5th in Top Country Albums
Ranked 42nd in Top Pop Albums

PLATINUM ALBUMS

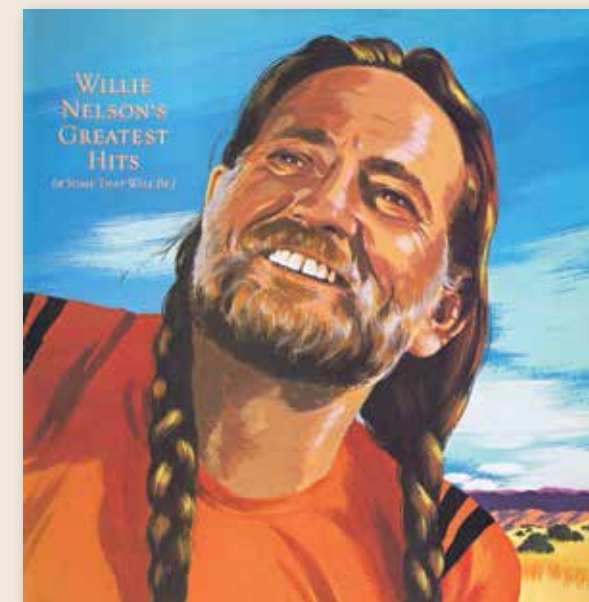
The Copyright Office in the Library of Congress promotes creativity by administering and sustaining an effective national copyright system, most importantly for the registration of original works of authorship. Most of the Library's holdings by American authors — including books, music, maps, motion pictures, periodicals, prints and photographs — are collected under provisions of the copyright law. Some musical works are registered first in unpublished form (often in the composer's own hand) and then in published form.



1979



1980

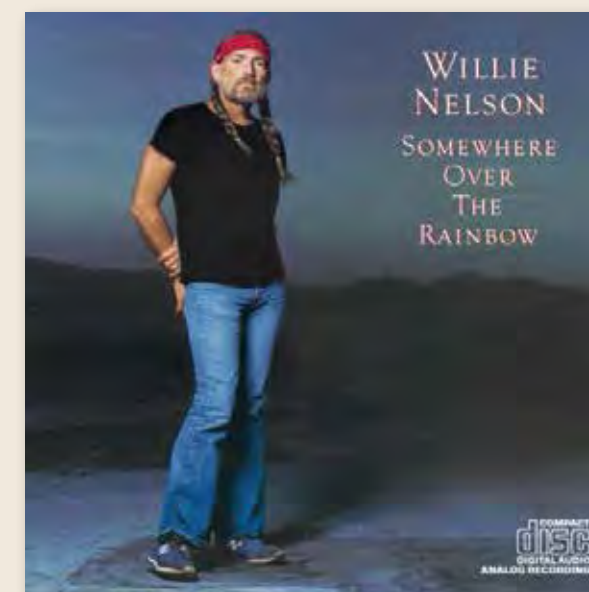


1981

Album is the soundtrack to the 1980 musical film of the same name, starring Willie Nelson.

Tracks include songs by Kenneth Threadgill, Emmylou Harris, Johnny Gimble, Hank Cochran, Jeannie Seely and Dyan Cannon.

"On the Road Again" was nominated for Best Original Song in the 53rd Academy Awards.



1981

"Pretty Paper," by Willie Nelson. Copyright deposits, December 13, 1962, December 12, 1963. First recorded by Roy Orbison in 1963.

PLATINUM ALBUMS



1982

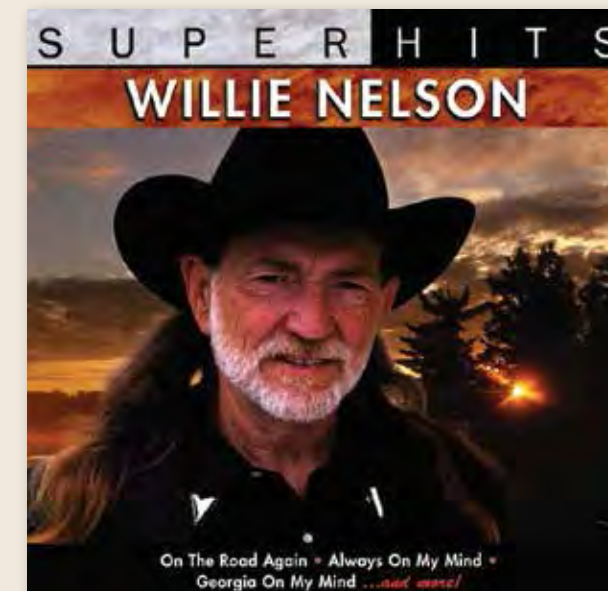
Ranked Number One Album of the Year
for Top Country Albums



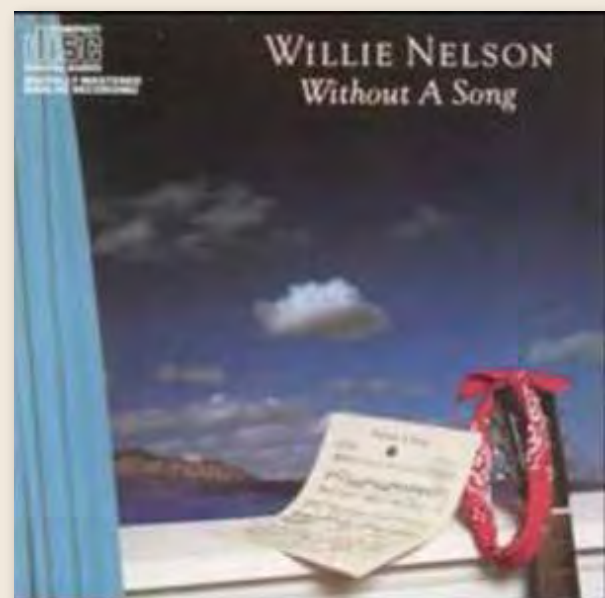
1983



1985



1994



1983

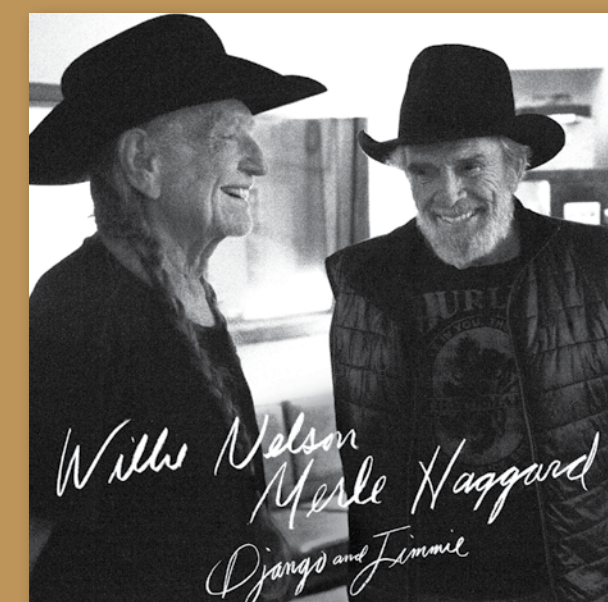


1984



1998

NEW ALBUM



2015

Ranked 1st in Top Country Album Chart
Ranked 7th in Billboard Top 200

Corporation for Public Broadcasting

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

GERSHWIN PRIZE FOR POPULAR SONG

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting is pleased to join the Library of Congress in celebrating the work of Willie Nelson. His music and words continue to enhance the lives of Americans and people worldwide, connecting us to one another through times of both celebration and challenge.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting is a nonprofit corporation funded by the American people to be the steward of their continuing investment in the programs, services and infrastructure of the finest public media service in the world.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting provides essential support for PBS, NPR, American Public Media, Public Radio International, and the nearly 1,400 locally owned and operated public radio and television stations.

Public media, on-air, online, and in our communities, reaches 98 percent of the American people with high-quality programming, free of charge and commercial free, that educates, informs, entertains and inspires diverse audiences in ways that are relevant to their lives today.

Over the years, funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting has made possible iconic arts and cultural programs and series such as *In Performance at the White House*, *Great Performances*, *The National Memorial Day Concert*, *A Capitol Fourth*, *The Civil War*, *Baseball*, *Jazz*, *Finding Your Roots*, *Masterpiece*, and the *Mark Twain Prize for American Humor*.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting is proud to provide major support for this celebration of the enduring contributions of Willie Nelson to our nation's musical heritage.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elizabeth Sembler, Chair
Lori Gilbert, Vice Chair
David Arroyo
Patricia Cahill
Jannette Dates
Judith Davenport
Howard Husock
Brent Nelsen
Bruce Ramer

Patricia S. Harrison
President and CEO



Corporation
for Public
Broadcasting

CONGRATULATIONS WILLIE!

FROM YOUR LEGACY RECORDINGS FAMILY



As an enthusiastic patron of the arts in Washington and all our communities, United Airlines is proud to serve as the official airline of the Gershwin Prize.

At United, we connect people with music, arts and culture across the globe. We are honored to fly the world-renowned artists who are here to perform and pay tribute to Mr. Nelson at this year's prize presentation.

Gershwin's own "Rhapsody in Blue" has held a special place in United's history as its iconic signature score since 1987, and the airline is honored to partner with the Library for this meaningful cultural recognition.



Congratulations
to Willie Nelson, an
American music
legend, and to
13th Librarian
of Congress
Dr. James H.
Billington, an
exemplary public
servant.

John J. Medveckis and Marina Kats, Library of Congress Madison Council members

Photo Credit: Ray Bodden

CONGRATULATIONS TO HONOREE
**WILLIE
NELSON**

ON RECEIVING THE 2015
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
GERSHWIN PRIZE FOR
POPULAR SONG

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT



2013 INAUGURAL CMA WILLIE NELSON
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT



SUPPORTERS

Congratulations on receiving
the 2015 Library of Congress
Gershwin Prize for Popular Song

Willie Nelson. BMI Writer Since 1959. BMI Icon 2007.

WRITE ON.

From the early days of “Crazy”
and “Funny How Time Slips Away”
through “Red Headed Stranger”
and 2014’s Band of Brothers,
we are proud that you are part
of the BMI Family.



valuing music since 1939.

CONGRATULATIONS
AND
GRATITUDE TO TWO
VISIONARY LEGENDS

Photo Credit: Jacqueline Poggi

THE LEGENDARY WILLIE NELSON,
for taking country music to places it had never been

AND

THE LEGENDARY DR. JAMES H. BILLINGTON,
for doing the same for our national library.

Susan Carmel Lehrman
Library of Congress James Madison Council Member

**Congratulations
and gratitude to
Willie Nelson**
for his remarkable
contributions to
American music, and to
Dr. James H. Billington,
for his visionary leadership
**of the world's
greatest library.**

Buffy Cafritz
Library of Congress
James Madison Council Member

On the
Occasion of the 2015
Library of Congress
Gershwin Prize for Popular Song

We Honor
Dr. James H. Billington
the 13th Librarian of Congress in U.S. History



28 years of exceptional service
28 major accomplishments

National Digital Library

World Digital Library
in association with UNESCO

National Book Festival

The James Madison Council
a private sector donor-support group for the Library

The John W. Kluge Center

The Kluge Prize

Gershwin Prize for Popular Song

Living Legend Awards

The Fiction Prize

Open World Leadership Center

National Film Preservation Board

Young Readers Center

Veterans History Project

THOMAS.gov and Congress.gov websites

Educational portal for K-12 teachers
and students

Library Collections Security Oversight
Committee

National Registry of Recorded Sound

First large-scale summer intern program
for university students

Online social media presence

eCo
*online copyright registration, status checking,
processing, and electronic file upload systems*

Championed no-fee electronic services

BIBFRAME

National Jukebox

Songs of America

BARD
*digital talking books mobile app for Braille and Audio
Reading Downloads*

Connected the Library to the U.S. Capitol
Visitors Center

Reconstruction of the Thomas Jefferson
Library

The Packard Campus for Audio-Visual
Conservation

75 million items

ADDED TO THE COLLECTION

including the Lafayette Papers, the Waldseemüller map,
and the Irving Berlin and Jackie Robinson collections

100 exhibitions

many including material not previously displayed in the U.S.
and enjoyed by millions of Library visitors and readers

500 million dollars

RAISED PRIVATELY

*To a man who has given his heart,
soul, mind, experience and love to
provide knowledge to the world.*

WITH LOVE AND APPRECIATION,
MARJORIE M. FISHER *and* ROY FURMAN

JULIE *and* PETER CUMMINGS

MARJORIE S. FISHER

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS JAMES MADISON COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUPPORTERS

Congratulations

to 2015 honoree Willie Nelson for his
enduring impact on American music and
to Dr. James H. Billington for his enduring
impact on the nation's Library.

Tom & Erika Girardi
Library of Congress James Madison Council Members

Photo Credit: Shiv Shankar Menon Palat

CONGRATULATIONS
TO DR. JAMES H. BILLINGTON
FOR HIS 28 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY STEWARDSHIP
OF THE NATION'S LIBRARY
& TO
WILLIE
NELSON
FOR CAPTURING
THE HEARTS OF
MUSIC LOVERS
EVERYWHERE

Mrs. Charles A. Dana, Jr.
Library of Congress
James Madison Council Member



JIMMY CARTER

November 18, 2015

To Willie Nelson

Although we regret we couldn't be with you today, Rosalynn joins me in congratulating you on receiving the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize, a prestigious and well-deserved award. Your music has enriched the lives of people far and wide for decades, and it is only fitting that your life's work be honored in this way.

Your friendship has been important to us for over 30 years, and we were proud to host you at the White House and in Plains. We also loved having you in Oslo for the Nobel Peace Prize concert in 2002. Your music has become the soundtrack of our lives, and we are pleased to see your tremendous talent recognized today.

Please know you have our warm best wishes on this special occasion, and we hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter

PAST RECIPIENTS



- A Paul Simon (2007 recipient)
Photo Credit: Scott Suchman
- B Stevie Wonder (2009 recipient)
Photo Credit: Abby Brack Lewis
- C Paul McCartney (2010 recipient)
Photo Credit: Abby Brack Lewis
- D Burt Bacharach and Hal David (2012 recipients)
Photo Credit: Charlie Gillett Collection
- E Carole King (2013 recipient)
Photo Credit: Abby Brack Lewis
- F Billy Joel (2014 recipient)
Photo Credit: John Harrington

ABOUT THE BROADCAST

Willie Nelson: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song is being taped for national television broadcast on PBS. These music specials embody public broadcasting's tradition of sharing with the American public the best of the performing arts, featuring musicians from diverse genres of American music, including pop, country, rock, jazz and blues. *Willie Nelson: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song* will premiere **Friday, January 15, 2016 at 9 p.m. ET** on PBS stations nationwide (check local listings). Additionally, the program will be broadcast at a later date via the American Forces Network to American service men and women and civilians at U.S. Department of Defense locations around the world.

Since 2007, WETA, the flagship public broadcasting station in the nation's capital, has produced *The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song* with the support of PBS and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Spanning from June 2007 to the most recent broadcast in January 2015, these events have honored the musical genius of Paul Simon, Stevie Wonder, Sir Paul McCartney, Burt Bacharach, Hal David, Carole King and Billy Joel. The talented lineups celebrating the honorees have included Yolanda

Adams, Marc Anthony, Tony Bennett, Boyz II Men, Wayne Brady, Elvis Costello, Sheryl Crow, Faith Hill, Dixie Hummingbirds, Gloria Estefan, Michael Feinstein, Josh Groban, Jonas Brothers, Diana Krall, Lyle Lovett, Martina McBride, Jesse McCartney, John Mellencamp, LeAnn Rimes, Emeli Sandé, Jerry Seinfeld, Kevin Spacey, Esperanza Spalding, James Taylor, Jack White and Will.i.am.

Willie Nelson: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song is a co-production of WETA Washington, D.C., and Bounce AEG. The executive producers are Dalton Delan for WETA, Washington, D.C., David S. Mao for the Library of Congress, and Michael Strunsky. The producers are Tim Swift and Kristi Foley for Bounce, and Susan H. Vita for the Library of Congress. The music director is Don Was. Major funding is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, PBS and public television viewers. Additional funding is provided by The Ira and Leonore Gershwin Fund, The Leonore S. Gershwin Trust for the benefit of The Library of Congress Trust Fund Board, and The Library of Congress James Madison Council. Air transportation is generously provided by United Airlines.

For more information about *Willie Nelson: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song*, visit:



pbs.org/Gershwin-Prize



[#PBSgershwin](https://twitter.com/PBSgershwin)



WETA Washington, D.C.

WETA Washington, D.C., is one of the largest producing stations of new content for public television in the United States. Other WETA productions and co-productions include *PBS NewsHour*, *Washington Week with Gwen Ifill*, *The Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize*, *In Performance at the White House* and documentaries by filmmaker Ken Burns, including a film about Jackie Robinson premiering April 2016. Sharon Percy Rockefeller is president and CEO. More information on WETA and its programs and services is available at weta.org.

Bounce AEG

Bounce AEG is an award-winning broadcast production division of The Anschutz Entertainment Group, the world's leading sports and entertainment company. In addition to this year's production of *The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize*, and last year's special honoring Billy Joel, Bounce AEG has produced one-of-a-kind live events including the annual *MusiCares Person of the Year* special during GRAMMY Week, *The National Christmas Tree Lighting* and several episodes of the acclaimed PBS series *In Performance at the White House*. The Bounce team also specializes in brand integration and marketing — working with high-end luxury firms on launching and maintaining their overall brand status. Tim Swift is founder and CEO. More information about Bounce AEG is available at bounceaeg.com.

PBS

PBS, with over 350 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and online content. Each month, PBS reaches more than 103 million people through television and over 33 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS' broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry's most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. PBS' premier children's TV programming and its website, pbskids.org, are parents' and teachers' most trusted partners in inspiring and nurturing curiosity and love of learning in children. More information about PBS is available at pbs.org, one of the leading dot-org websites on the Internet.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967, is the steward of the federal government's investment in public broadcasting. It helps support the operations of more than 1,400 locally-owned and -operated public television and radio stations nationwide, and is the largest single source of funding for research, technology, and program development for public radio, television and related online services. More information about CPB is available at cpb.org.

PERFORMING
ARTIST

EDIE BRICKELL



Photo Credit: Danny Clinch

Following the multi-platinum success of her debut album with New Bohemians in 1988, *Shooting Rubberbands at the Stars*, and then *Ghost of a Dog*, Brickell settled down and delighted in the privilege of being a stay-at-home mom. She has since written and recorded albums produced by guitar hero Charlie Sexton and with The Gaddabouts, a collaboration with legends Steve Gadd, Andy Fairweather Low and Pino Palladino. And she still loves to play and record with her old friends in New Bohemians. Additionally, Brickell began her Song of the Day project in April 2012, writing and posting a song—which she recorded live into her phone—to her website daily for two years. Brickell's most recent work, a rootsy, 13-track collaboration with Steve Martin titled *Love Has Come For You*, was released to widespread acclaim. The title track won the Grammy for Best American Roots Song. Combining Martin's five-string banjo work with Brickell's distinctive, slightly Southern-sounding vocals, it is this success that led Brickell and Martin to collaborate yet again, this time on the musical *Bright Star*.

PERFORMING
ARTIST

LEON BRIDGES



Photo Credit: Rambo

Forth Worth, Texas native and Columbia Records artist Leon Bridges released his debut album *Coming Home* in June of 2015 to critical and public acclaim. Following the October 2014 release of two tunes that set the online world aflame, and intimate solo shows from London to Los Angeles and Nashville to New York, the singer/songwriter has proved himself a rare talent who can do smoldering ballads and elemental rock 'n' roll with equal aplomb. With a few early compositions tucked under his belt, a seeming dichotomy surfaced: Bridges' tunes sounded less like the modern R&B he'd grown up loving than a style he was, in fact, not very familiar with: classic soul. He began a tenderfoot period of apprenticeship playing coffeehouses in and around Fort Worth, slowly finding and refining his voice. A turning point soon came via a pair of selvedge trousers. One night at an Austin bar, Bridges was approached by a young woman who

complimented him on his snazzy Wranglers and said that he should meet her boyfriend, a fellow with a comparable sense of style. Her boyfriend turned out to be Austin Jenkins of the band White Denim. After Jenkins and his bandmate Joshua Block saw Bridges perform at a low-key local show, they insisted that he cut a few tracks on their burgeoning bank of vintage equipment. That initial three-day session, with Jenkins and Block producing, yielded the recordings that set Bridges at the center of attention from aficionados and labels alike. The buttery, seductive "Coming Home" and the piston-driven, doo-wop flavored "Better Man" demonstrated Bridges' versatility. The early 2015 release of another new song, "Lisa Sawyer," has further burnished Bridges' promise. "I'm not saying I can hold a candle to any soul musician from the '50s and '60s," Bridges says, "but I want to carry the torch."

PERFORMING
ARTIST

ROSANNE CASH



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Rosanne Cash

One of the country's pre-eminent singer/songwriters, Rosanne Cash has released 15 albums of extraordinary songs that have earned four Grammy Awards and nominations for 11 more, as well as 21 Top 40 hits, including 11 No. 1 singles. She is also an author whose four books include the best-selling memoir *Composed*, which the *Chicago Tribune* called "one of the best accounts of an American life you'll likely ever read." Her essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *Oxford-American*, *The Nation* and many more print and online publications. In recent seasons, Cash has given concerts at the Spoleto Festival, Toronto's Luminato festival and New Haven's Festival of Arts and Ideas, and partnered in programming collaborations with the Minnesota Orchestra, Lincoln Center and San Francisco Jazz. She completed a residency at the Library of Congress in December 2013.

Cash's 2009 album *The List* won the Americana Music Album of the Year award. She was given the AFTRA Lifetime Achievement award for Sound Recordings in 2012 and received the 2014

Smithsonian Ingenuity Award in the Performing Arts. Earlier this year she was chosen as a Perspective Series artist at Carnegie Hall and will host four concerts (including a major show of her own in February) in their 2015/16 season.

The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville has selected Cash as their artist in residence for 2015. She performed three concerts there in September, and on October 11 of this year, she was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters' Hall of Fame.

In her latest release *The River and the Thread*, a collaboration with husband/co-writer/producer and arranger John Leventhal, Cash evokes a kaleidoscopic examination of the geographic, emotional, musical and historic landscape of the American South. The album has received impressive worldwide acclaim, attaining the highest debut in the Billboard charts of any of her albums, and receiving three Grammy Awards earlier this year.

PERFORMING
ARTIST

ANA GABRIEL



Photo Credit: People en Español

Ana Gabriel, born Maria Guadalupe Araujo Yong, is a Mexican singer and songwriter from Guamuchil, Mexico. Throughout her long and prestigious career, Gabriel has released more than 30 albums in different genres including Latin pop, ranchero and banda, and sold more than 35 million copies worldwide.

Gabriel has released twenty studio albums, three live albums, and 15 compilation albums. Three Gabriel albums reached No. 1 on the *Billboard* Latin Pop Albums chart, and seven singles reached No. 1 on the *Billboard* Latin Songs chart, including "Ay Amor," "Es Demasiado Tarde," and "Quién

Como Tú." Her work has earned her numerous awards and accolades, including a Grammy Award nomination, four Latin Grammy Award nominations, 13 Lo Nuestro Awards, as well as awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Her first big opportunity with a multinational record company came on July 4, 1984, when she signed with Sony Music (then CBS). Her sultry, sensual and raspy voice was what distinguished her unique style among her peers. In 1984 her first studio album *Un Estilo* was released, and from then on, Gabriel has released almost an album per year including three live recordings. A versatile singer, Gabriel has showcased her talent as an interpreter of many different musical styles, from ballad to lambada, mariachi and pop music. She has also honed her skills as a songwriter and producer in the vast majority of her records. A unique blend of styles and genres is reflected in many of her songs, and her lyrics are usually described as strong, powerful and filled with emotion. Gabriel has scored many number one hits in her career, but she has also sung in duets alongside renowned names such as Vicente Fernández, José Feliciano, and Plácido Domingo, among many others.

This year the Hispanic Heritage Award Committee is honoring Ana Gabriel with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her musical trajectory and her invaluable contributions to the arts community.

PERFORMING
ARTIST

JAMEY JOHNSON



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Jamey Johnson

Truth and tradition. These non-negotiable principles serve as the bedrock of the music of 11-time Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Jamey Johnson, who is “one of the greatest country singers of our time,” according to *The Washington Post*.

The honesty of his timeless voice and soul-baring songs—from “In Color” and “High Cost of Living” to “That’s Why I Write Songs,” “Poor Man Blues” and “Can’t Cash My Checks”—serves as a beacon for what matters most in music and in life. He has received tremendous praise from *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Wall Street Journal* and other publications, many of which have hailed

his albums as masterpieces. *The Nashville Scene* has twice named Johnson’s albums as the year’s best album in its annual Country Music Critics’ Poll. In 2011, it also named him artist of the year, best male vocalist and best songwriter.

His influential 2008 album, *That Lonesome Song*, was certified platinum for 1 million in sales, and his innovative 2010 double album, *The Guitar Song*, which debuted at No. 1 on the country album charts, received a gold certification. In 2012, he released a Grammy-nominated project honoring one of his heroes, *Living for a Song: A Tribute to Hank Cochran*, that paired him with Willie Nelson, Alison Krauss, Emmylou Harris, Ray Price, Elvis Costello, George Strait, Vince Gill and Merle Haggard.

Like many of his idols, Johnson is also recognized as one of the most powerful and prolific songwriters of his generation. He is one of only a few people in the history of country music to win two Song of the Year Awards—for “Give It Away” and “In Color”—from the Academy of Country Music and the Country Music Association. He has written singles for George Strait, Trace Adkins, James Otto, Joe Nichols and others. In 2014, he took a significant step in independence and creative freedom by launching his own label, Big Gassed Records. He has since released a holiday EP, *The Christmas Song*, and the songs “Alabama Pines” and “You Can.”

PERFORMING
ARTIST

ALISON KRAUSS



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Alison Krauss

Alison Krauss is a bluegrass virtuoso who effortlessly bridges the gap between roots music and country, rock and pop. A highly sought-after collaborator, Krauss has worked with some of the biggest names in popular music, including James Taylor, Phish, Dolly Parton, Yo Yo Ma and Bonnie Raitt. Since signing with Rounder Records at the age of 14, Krauss has sold more than 12 million albums and won 27 Grammy Awards, the most for any female and the second most for any recording artist in Grammy history. Her work on such films as *Cold Mountain* and *O Brother Where Art Thou* has contributed immeasurably to a renaissance in American roots music. Her latest album—recorded with her longstanding bandmates, Union Station—is the endlessly impressive *Paper Airplane*, which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Country, Bluegrass and Folk Album charts upon its release.

PERFORMING
ARTIST

RAUL MALO OF THE MAVERICKS



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Raul Malo

“The world has too much strife, racial and social divides being fed 24/7; it’s non-stop. It turns normal, loving people into brainwashed zombies who can’t come together. Maybe it’s the hopeless romantic in me, but I’d like to make a place where all people can come together,” muses Raul Malo. It sounds like lofty “hippie speak,” something the Grammy winner jokes about, but Malo, the son of Cuban immigrants, believes in bringing people together, often in

the name of good times and great music—the most universal language of all.

Malo is the incomparable frontman of the genre-defying band The Mavericks and the sole writer of many of their songs. From their earliest shows playing the punk clubs on Miami Beach nearly three decades ago, these musical comrades have had a skill for getting people to groove. Drawing on a mix of classic country, cow-punk and standards, they bring to the world rhythmic fervor and Latin machismo, along with Malo’s lush baritone. Their raucous sound broke ground with hits like “Here Comes the Rain,” “Crying Shame” and “All You Ever Do Is Bring Me Down.” After many years, multiple gold and platinum albums, world tours, breakups and reformations, The Mavericks’ critically-acclaimed *In Time* (2013) re-introduced music lovers to their exquisite melting pot of music. “Known for the risky marriage of island rhythms, Latin horn riffs, and traditional country—the unique sonic references of first-generation Cuban immigrants tethered to dyed-in-the-wool Americana — Malo and his seven musicians push those bonds further into a sound that is generally buoyantly delightful,” praises Billboard. With the 2015 release of *Mono* (The Valory Music Co.), The Mavericks find themselves making the most relevant music of their career and sharing it across the globe on their Mono Mundo Tour. Malo’s songwriting throughout builds on the compositional craftsmanship of early 20th-century elegance yet demonstrates his skill for penning progressive and timeless songs. “The flawless dynamics of the band remain in sync with the songs and Malo’s emotional, explosive vocals...” touts Vintage Guitar, while NPR ponders, “Their weapons are consummate skill, the clarion charisma of singer Raul Malo, and the wisdom to know that fun is what wins in the end.”

PERFORMING
ARTIST

LUKAS NELSON & PROMISE OF THE REAL



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Lukas Nelson

When Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real play, it is exciting, visceral and—above all—real. They have come a long way since releasing their debut EP *Brando’s Paradise* in 2010, which sent them on a trajectory of non-stop touring and recording. The band has released six CDs in five years, including 2010’s debut full-length *Promise of the Real*, *Wasted* in 2012, a live album *Live Endings* in 2012, and a free collection of demos *I Ain’t Mad Anymore* in 2013. They have also headlined their own tours and performed at such notable events as Farm Aid, Bridge School Benefit, SXSW, Lollapalooza, Stagecoach, Gathering of the Vibes Festival, Willie Nelson’s Country Throwdown, Kid Rock’s Chillin’ the Most Cruise, iTunes Festival, Harvest the Hope benefit, and much more. The band has also accomplished something no other self-released indie band has done—landed every major late night show, including *Late Show with David Letterman*, *Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *Conan*, *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*, and *Jimmy Kimmel Live*. *No Depression* magazine noted, “With a unique voice and gift for penning timely socially conscious lyrics stretched over muscular guitar riffs, Lukas Nelson is earning not only fans, but heaps of critical praise as well.”

In 2014, the band released three new songs, “Lil Girl,” which is featured in the new movie *Dumb and Dumber To*, “Living it Up,” and “Find Yourself,” all from the band’s 2013 *Love Yourself* recording sessions in Topanga Canyon, California. They also scored their first film *Satellite Beach*, a short directed by brothers Luke Wilson (*Old School*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Idiocracy*) and Andrew Wilson (*Rushmore*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Hall Pass*), which won the coveted Bruce Corwin Award at the 29th Annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival. In addition to recording with Neil Young, they are currently finishing production on a new album.

PAUL SIMON



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Paul Simon

During his distinguished career, Paul Simon has been the recipient of many honors and awards. He is a 12-time Grammy Award winner and was twice inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, both as a member of Simon & Garfunkel and as a solo artist. He is also a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame and his song, “Mrs. Robinson,” from the film *The Graduate*, was named in the Top 10 of the American Film Institute’s “100 Years, 100 Songs.”

Simon was a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors in 2002 and was named one of *Time* magazine’s “100 People Who Shape Our World” in 2006. He was awarded the inaugural Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Of Simon’s many concert appearances, he is most fond of the two concerts in Central Park in New York (with his partner and childhood friend Art Garfunkel in 1981 and as a solo artist in 1991) and the series of shows he did at the invitation of Nelson Mandela, making him the first American artist to perform in post-apartheid South Africa. Simon’s 1998 performance in center field at Yankee Stadium to celebrate the unveiling of Joe DiMaggio’s monument is a treasured memory for this lifelong Yankees fan.

His philanthropic works include the co-founding, in 1987, of the Children’s Health Fund (CHF) with Dr. Irwin Redlener. CHF donates and staffs mobile medical vans that bring health care to poor and indigent children in urban and rural locations around the United States. He performs many concerts annually for numerous charities and humanitarian organizations including Autism Speaks, The Nature Conservancy, CURE/Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy and Joe Torre’s Safe At Home Foundation, to name but a few.

NEIL YOUNG



Photo Credit: Julie Gardner

The incomparable Neil Young has risen to prominence as a musician, filmmaker, producer, director, author, activist, humanitarian and visionary, and has helped advance the formats and technology with which we listen to music.

Young’s recording career began with The Squires in Winnipeg, Canada in 1963. After moving to Los Angeles in the mid-’60s to find success with the band Buffalo Springfield, Young turned to a solo career with a stream of classic albums including 1970’s *After the Gold Rush* and 1972’s *Harvest*.

Young has earned numerous accolades, including an Academy Award nomination, induction into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, and two inductions into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for his solo work and as a member of Buffalo Springfield. In 2010 and 2011, he won two Grammys, and in 2010 he received the Grammy’s MusiCares Person of the Year Award for his artistic and philanthropic accomplishments. In 2013, Neil Young & Crazy Horse were nominated for a Grammy for Best Rock Album for *Psychedellic Pill*, released by Reprise Records.

Young has a passion for visual media, and has directed and released films through his production company Shakey Pictures. His filmography includes *Rust Never Sleeps* (1979) and the documentary *CSNY/Déjà vu* (2008). In June 2012, Sony Pictures Classics released *Journeys*, Jonathan Demme’s third film documenting Young’s career (following *Heart of Gold* and *Trunk Show*).

Young’s philanthropy is as renowned as his music. He was one of the original founders of Farm Aid in 1985 and continues today to be a passionate and informed member of its board of directors. Each October, he hosts the Bridge School Concerts to benefit The Bridge School, a facility the Youngs helped found to support children with severe speech and physical impairments in achieving full participation in their communities through assistive technology and innovative educational strategies. These weekend concerts have drawn an international array of musical artists and have raised significant resources for the school. Most recently Young has become the founder of Pono Music. Pono is the result of Young’s determination to bring high-resolution music--as good as musicians experience it in the studio--to music lovers around the world. He continues to lead the team of musicians, engineers and other experts who helped him create the PonoPlayer and PonoMusic Store.

Young remains an indefatigable recording and touring artist. He is currently on tour supporting his latest album, *The Monsanto Years* by Neil Young + Promise of the Real, released on June 29, 2015.

BUCKWHEAT ZYDECO



Photo Credit: Rick Olivier

American musical legend Stanley “Buckwheat” Dural Jr. (a.k.a. Buckwheat Zydeco) is the pre-eminent ambassador of Louisiana's zydeco music.

If you've gotten into zydeco music, felt its influence, or watched the world celebrate this great aspect of Louisiana culture over the past 30+ years, it's likely because of Buckwheat Zydeco. Many millions witnessed the excitement when Jimmy Fallon chose him to open the final episode of *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*. The song they played, “On a Night Like This,” was the title track of Buckwheat Zydeco's groundbreaking first Island Records album and was responsible for bringing the unique sound of zydeco into the musical

mainstream in 1987. It was also the first major label zydeco record and a Grammy nominee. No other zydeco artist has come close to selling as many records or exposing the music to more people around the world. He and his band claim the three largest selling zydeco albums of all time.

Over the course of Buckwheat Zydeco's career, Buck has gigged or recorded with everyone from Eric Clapton, Keith Richards, and U2 to The Boston Pops. The band performed at the closing ceremonies of the 1996 Summer Olympics to a worldwide audience of three billion people. Buckwheat Zydeco performed at both of President Clinton's inaugurals. National television appearances include PBS's Paul Simon *Gershwin Prize* concert, where Buck performed with Lyle Lovett; sitting in with Paul Shaffer on *The Late Show with David Letterman* (and playing “Hot Tamale Baby” for Martha Stewart); and feting Ozzie Osbourne among others at VH-1's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Buck was profiled in a feature by Scott Simon on National Public Radio's *Weekend Edition* Saturday. The band has appeared six times on *Letterman*, and on *CNN*, *The Today Show*, *MTV*, *NBC News*, *CBS Morning News* and many other programs.

The band celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2009 and capped it with the release of the Grammy Award-winning Alligator CD, *Lay Your Burden Down*. In February 2010 the album was awarded Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album. Buckwheat Zydeco had been nominated four previous times in three different categories. This was the band's first Grammy win. Moving in yet another new direction for zydeco music, Buckwheat Zydeco is featured on their own YouTube channel, Buckwheat's World. The series showcases musical performances and presents slices-of-life footage of Buck, the band and friends doing what they do in everyday life in Southwest Louisiana. New episodes are posted regularly.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS IS THE NATION'S FIRST-ESTABLISHED FEDERAL CULTURAL INSTITUTION AND THE LARGEST LIBRARY IN THE WORLD,

with more than 160 million items in some 470 languages on approximately 838 miles of shelves. It is the nation's storehouse of knowledge, with vast collections of books, manuscripts, maps, sound recordings, films, newspapers, prints and photographs. Items from these collections are being digitized every day and made accessible on the Library's website.

Everyone can view online Thomas Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence, the papers of Abraham Lincoln, Revolutionary War maps, Civil War photographs, the first Thomas Edison films and sound recordings, and millions more documents of American history, and increasingly, world history. These items and other priceless collections are housed in three buildings on Capitol Hill, the oldest

being the elegant shrine to knowledge, the Thomas Jefferson Building, opened in 1897.

The music collections in the Library of Congress encompass virtually all musical genres — classical, jazz, folk, gospel, blues, rock, country and hip-hop. Original manuscripts of European masters such as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, and Brahms sit on shelves next to those of American masters such as Irving Berlin, Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein. The Music Division is home to the largest sheet music collection in the world, dating from the earliest publishers in Europe and America to the present day. Studies of popular music are bolstered by the Library's vast collections of traditional music in the American Folklife Center, including the repertoires of early blues men such as Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters, and field recordings of diverse American folk music traditions.

To learn more about the Library's collections, programs and services, visit loc.gov and connect on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Pinterest, YouTube, iTunesU, and Flickr.

2014 PERFORMANCE
HONORING
BILLY JOEL

Watch the show online here:
pbs.org/gershwin-prize/shows/gershwin-prize-billy-joel



Unless otherwise noted, photo credits are by John Harrington

- A DAR Constitution Hall
- B The 13th Librarian of Congress and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor honoring the 2014 Gershwin Prize recipient Billy Joel
- C Emcee Kevin Spacey and honoree Billy Joel

- D Twyla Tharp dancers
- E Shawn Stockman of Boyz II Men
- F Leann Rimes
- G Gavin DeGraw
- H Josh Groban
- I Michael Feinstein
- J Natalie Maines
- K John Mellencamp
- L Twyla Tharp
- M Honoree Billy Joel and 2014 musical performers
- N Tony Bennett



THE GEORGE AND IRA GERSHWIN COLLECTION, HOUSED IN THE MUSIC DIVISION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, IS THE WORLD'S PRE-EMINENT BODY OF PRIMARY-SOURCE MATERIALS FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE GERSHWINS.

The collection provides more than just biographical information and a record of the brothers' compositional processes. These materials reveal a compelling and immediate sense of their distinctive personalities. Music comes first: orchestrations, piano-vocal scores, sketches, lyric sheets and librettos, much of which is in the handwriting of the Gershwins. There is also a wealth of correspondence that offers a first-hand view of the brothers' daily lives, processes, and personalities. Pictorial materials include many photographs of George, Ira, and members of their family and circle of friends, as well as paintings and drawings by both George and Ira. Legal and financial papers, 35 scrapbooks, programs, posters, scores from George's music library, and scripts for radio broadcasts, all add up to an unparalleled resource for the study of the Gershwins and their milieu. For more information about the Gershwin Collection, go to loc.gov/performingarts.

The first item in the Music Division's Gershwin Collection came to the Library of Congress in 1939, two years after George's death, with an exchange of letters between Ira Gershwin and Harold Spivacke, then chief of the Music Division. The correspondence led to Ira's first gift to the

Library: George's sketch for "The Crapshooter's Song" from *Porgy and Bess*. The surviving Gershwin brother promised he would "dig up something more satisfactory." In 1953 came the manuscripts of the large-scale works, including *Rhapsody in Blue*, *An American in Paris* and the *Concerto in F* from the estate of Rose Gershwin. These were followed by many generous gifts from other family members and friends. In 1987, Ira's widow, Leonore, donated the remaining music manuscripts and lyric sheets from her home. Until her death in 1991, she continued purchasing items for the collection, and today her generous bequest continues to support acquisitions and programs that extend the legacy of the Gershwin brothers.

In 1985, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded posthumously to George and Ira Gershwin for their "outstanding and invaluable contributions to American music, theatre, and culture." The medal, designed and executed by Edgar Z. Steever and Charles Y. Martin, sculptors and engravers at the U.S. Mint, features both brothers in profile. On the back is the now-famous inscription Ira wrote in the Librarian of Congress' guest book in 1966; quoting from his Pulitzer Prize-winning show *Of Thee I Sing*, he wrote, "Shining star and inspiration, worthy of a mighty nation — and I do mean the LOC [Library of Congress]." In commemoration of George and Ira Gershwin's dedication to American song and culture and the generous efforts of their families to preserve and perpetuate that heritage, the Library of Congress has named its Prize for Popular Song after these two prolific artists. The medal is adapted from the design of the Gershwin Congressional Gold Medal.



The Congressional Gold Medal was awarded posthumously to George and Ira Gershwin for their "outstanding and invaluable contributions to American music, theatre, and culture."

A Portrait of George and Ira Gershwin

B George Gershwin

C Ira Gershwin



SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS



For presenting the Gershwin moment

Photo Credit: Gilles Toucas

MICHAEL FEINSTEIN

Michael Feinstein, the multi-platinum-selling, two-time Emmy and five-time Grammy Award-nominated entertainer dubbed “The Ambassador of the Great American Songbook,” is considered one of the premier interpreters of American standards. His 200-plus shows a year have included performances at Carnegie Hall, the Sydney Opera House and the Hollywood Bowl as well as the White House and Buckingham Palace.

More than simply a performer, Feinstein has received national recognition for his commitment to celebrating America's popular song and preserving its legacy for the next generation. In 2007, he founded the Michael Feinstein Great American Songbook Initiative, dedicated to celebrating the art form and preserving it through educational programs, Master Classes, and the annual High School Vocal Academy and Competition, which awards scholarships and prizes to students across the country. Feinstein serves on the Library of Congress's National Recording Preservation Board, an organization dedicated to ensuring the survival, conservation and increased public availability of America's sound-recording heritage.



For photography of the honoree

Photo Credit: David McClister

DAVID MCCLISTER

A filmmaker and director originally, McClister first picked up a still camera (a massive Mamiya RB) at the urging of some musician friends, and immediately fell in love with the freedom and spontaneity of the medium. Thirteen years later, he splits his time almost evenly between photo assignments and directing films, commercials and music videos.

“I've always loved faces,” he says, “and been fascinated by subcultures. Photography has allowed me to get close to those faces that intrigue me so much, and entry

into worlds I would never have been welcomed into before. And being a music fan, it has given me so many special moments with some of my childhood heroes.”

McClister mixes his love for unusual beauty and the unknown in his work, and in his free time can often be found with his eyes and ears open, searching through small towns and back alleys for that next elusive subculture still waiting to be discovered (and documented).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

David S. Mao, Acting Librarian of Congress
Robert R. Newlen, Chief of Staff

PROJECT TEAM

Music Division
Susan H. Vita, Chief
Jan Lauridsen, Assistant Chief
Anne McLean, Senior Producer
Michele Lambert Glymph, Senior Producer
Solomon HaileSelassie, House Manager
Donna Williams, Administrative Officer
James Wintle, Music Specialist

Special Events
Mary Eno, Supervisory Special Events Manager
Nishelle Wingfield, Senior Special Events Coordinator
Jarrod MacNeil, Senior Special Events Coordinator

Development Office
Sue Siegel, Director
Sara Karrer, Senior Development Specialist

Congressional Relations Office
Kathleen Ott, Director
Stephen Kelley, Senior Congressional Relations Specialist
Elizabeth Thoma, Congressional Relations Assistant

Office of Communications
Gayle Osterberg, Director
Sheryl Cannady, Audiovisual Production Specialist

Office of the General Counsel
Elizabeth Pugh, General Counsel
Hope O'Keeffe, Associate General Counsel
Emily Vartanian, Associate General Counsel
Office of the Chief of Staff
Cindy Moore, Graphic Designer

Office of the Chief Information Officer
Jim Cannady, Multimedia Coordinator
Hannah Lynch, Information Technology Specialist

SPECIAL THANKS
Willie Nelson team
Mark Rothbaum, Manager
Elaine Schock, Publicist
John Selman, Tour Manager

Band members
Don Was, Music Director/ Bass
Tom Bukovac, Guitar
Audley Freed, Guitar
Greg Leisz, Pedal Steel/ Mandolin
Kenny Aronoff, Drums
Matt Rollings, Keyboards
Mickey Raphael, Harmonica
Ann McCrary, Background Vocalist
Regina McCrary, Background Vocalist
Alfreda McCrary, Background Vocalist

BOUNCE AEG
Tim Swift, Producer
Kristi Foley, Producer
Gregg Gelfand, Director
Lauren Aspell, Production and Talent Executive
Matt Russell, Production Designer
Matt Firestone, Lighting Designer
Neal Kendall, Writer
David Ritz, Writer
Beau Beckley, Production Manager
Raya Rios, Production Coordinator
Steve White, Media Coordinator
Ellen Hammock, Travel Coordinator

Corporation for Public Broadcasting
Patricia Harrison, President & CEO
PBS
Paula Kerger, President & CEO

WETA
Sharon Percy Rockefeller, President & CEO
Dalton Delan, Executive Producer

Also:
Mary Stewart
Barbara Blauhut
Chloe Kougias
Jim Corbley
Tim Dombro
Troy Mosley

Jack Forrest
Paul Guilderson
Rose Magruder
Meghan Haven-Bruske
Kimberly Hanson
Mandarin Oriental
United States Capitol Police

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

The Ira and Leonore Gershwin Fund

The Leonore S. Gershwin Trust for the benefit of The Library of Congress Trust Fund Board, Michael Strunsky, Trustee

The Library of Congress James Madison Council with additional support from the following members:

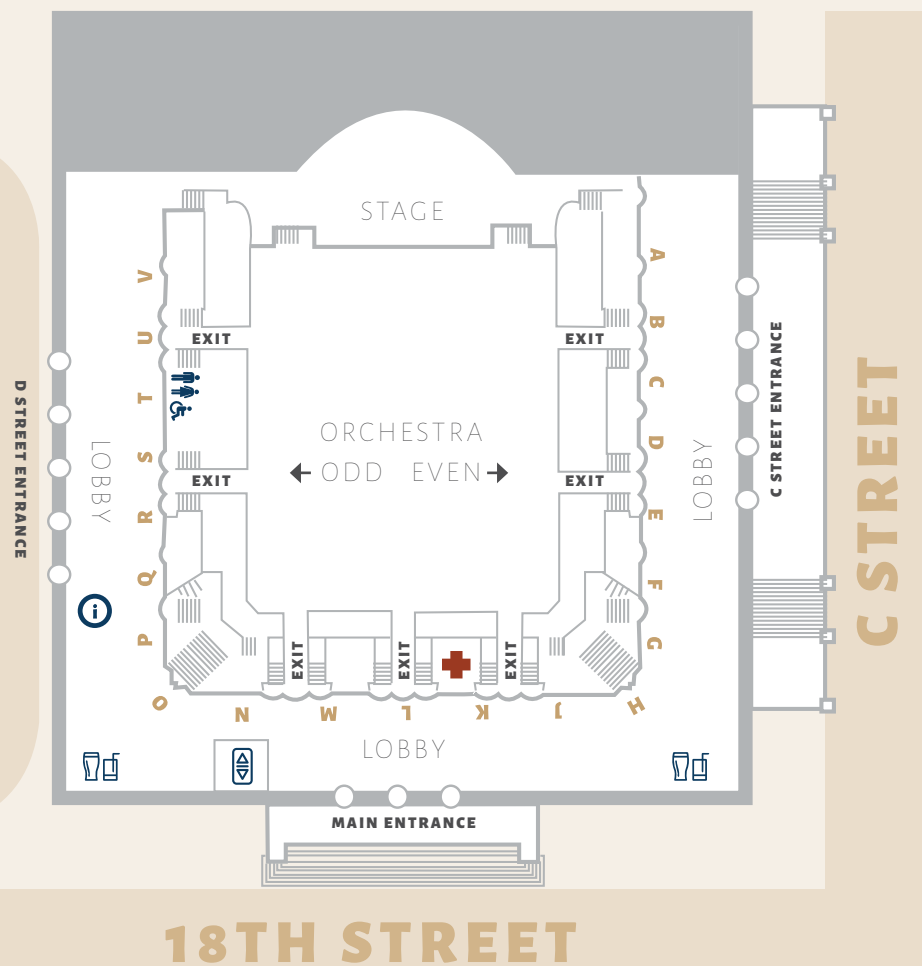
Buffy Cafritz
Mrs. Charles A. Dana, Jr.
Marjorie M. Fisher and Roy Furman, Julie and Peter Cummings, and Marjorie S. Fisher
Tom and Erika Girardi
Susan Carmel Lehrman
J. J. Medveckis Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. B. Francis Saul II
Albert H. Small

The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song was created by Dr. James H. Billington, Bob Kaminsky, Peter Kaminsky, Mark Krantz and Cappy McGarr.

The Gershwin name is used in connection with the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song courtesy of the families of George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin. GERSHWIN® is a registered trademark of Gershwin Enterprises.

**DAR
CONSTITUTION
HALL**

D STREET

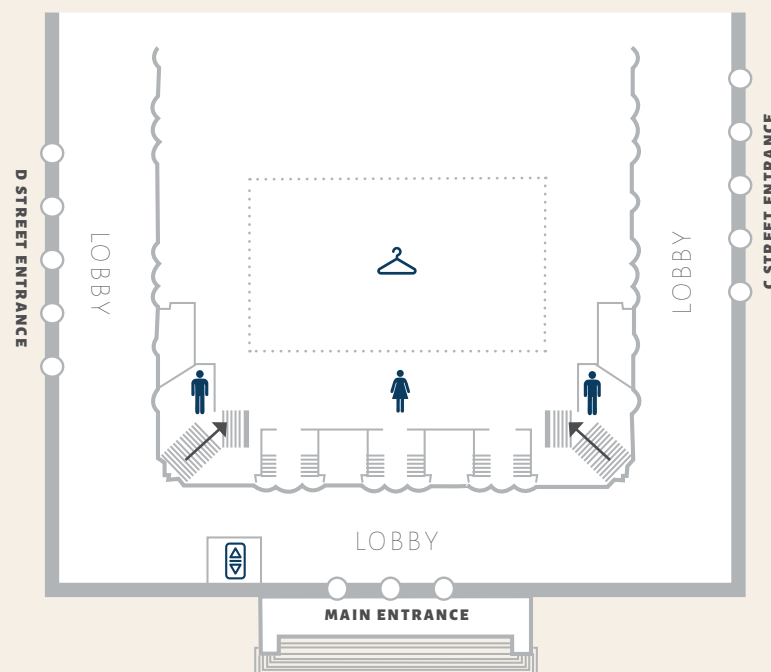


18TH STREET

LOWER LEVEL

KEY

- Guest info
- Elevator
- Concessions
- Coat Check
- ADA Restrooms
- Restrooms
- First Aid



CRAZY

E u 688062 SEP 22 1961

By... WILLIE NELSON

CRA-ZY, CRA-ZY FOR FEELIN' SO LONELY, —

I'M CRA-ZY, CRA-ZY FOR FEELIN' SO BLUE.

I KNEW YOU'D LOVE ME AS LONG AS YOU WANTED —

AND THEN SOMEDAY — YOU'D LEAVE ME FOR SOMEBODY

NEW, WOR-RY, — WHY DO I LET MY-SELF

WOR-RY, — WOND'RIN' — WHAT IN THE WORLD DID I

DO. CRA-ZY — FOR THINKING THAT MY LOVE COULD

HOLD YOU, — I'M CRA-ZY FOR TRY-IN',

CRA-ZY FOR CRY-IN' AND I'M CRAZY FOR LOV-IN' YOU.

COPYRIGHT © 1961 BY PAMPER MUSIC, INC.
119 TWO MILE PIKE — GOODLETTSVILLE, TENN.

"Crazy," by Willie Nelson. Copyright deposit, September 22, 1961,
Recorded by numerous artists, most notably by Patsy Cline, whose version was a hit in 1962.



101 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20540
T: 202-707-8000 | [loc.gov](https://www.loc.gov)